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SOME DOGS OF YESTERDAY

SINCE it is that the Westminster Kennel Club will hold its annual bench show the latter part of this month, THE LOTUS presents some pictures with somewhat quaint accompanying text, descriptive of the dogs that were much prized by our forebears in England and which should, indeed, still be prized by us. As many of the patrons of the Westminster Kennel Club are also Patrons of the THE LOTUS, it doubtless will be pleasant for them to have some of the standard dogs of an earlier time pictured and described here.

The picture following is of a stag-hound. It was drawn from the life and is a good exemplification of that drawn by the poet, with some small abatement in respect to colours.

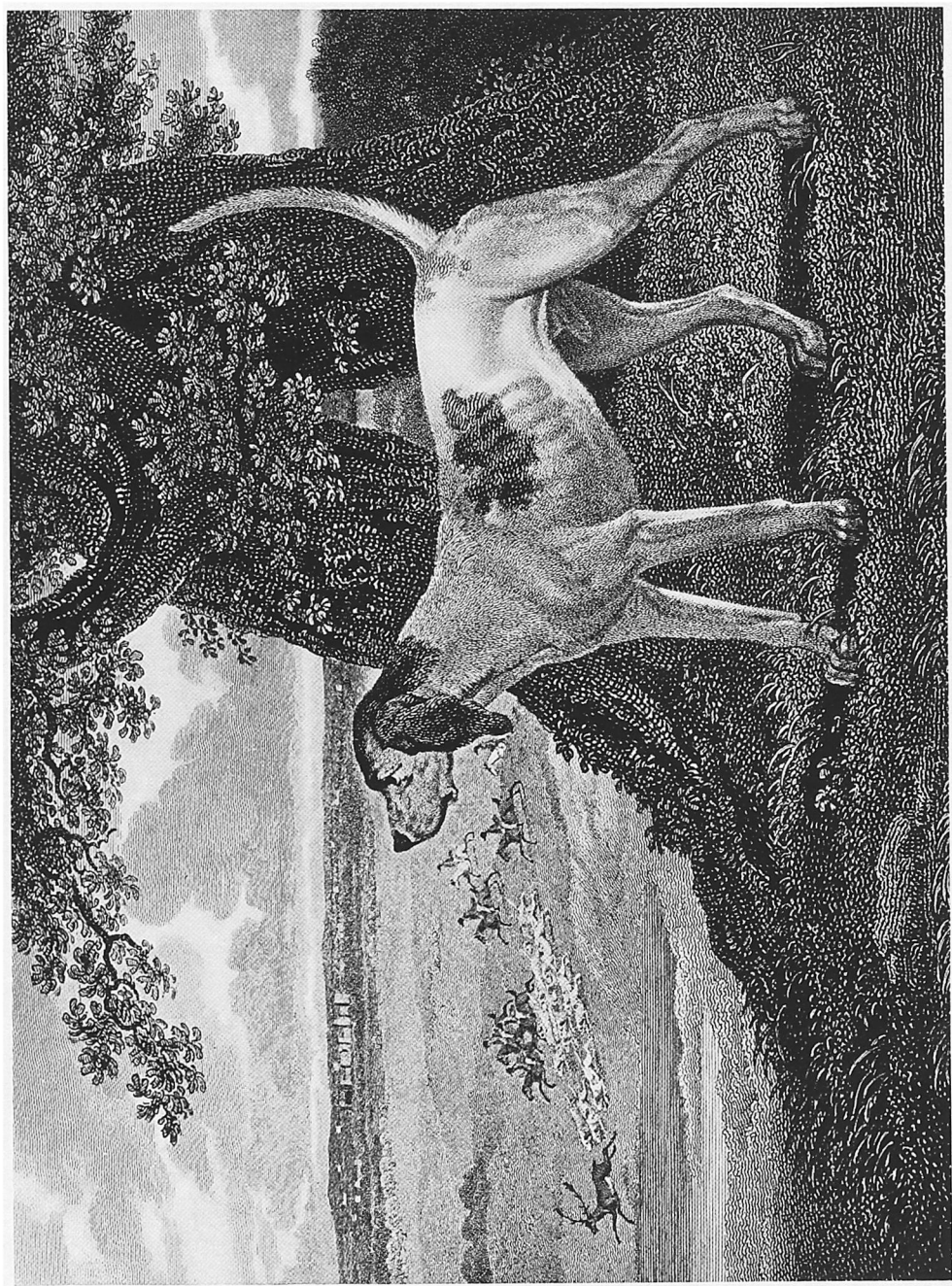
“His glossy skin, o’ yellow pied or blue,
In lights or shades by nature’s pencil drawn,
Reflects the various tints; his ears and legs,
Fleck’d here and there, in gay enamel’d pride,
Rival the speckled pard; his rush-grown tail,
O’er his broad back bends in an ample arch;
On shoulders clean upright and firm he stands;
His round cat foot, straight hams and wide spread
thighs,
And his low-dropping chest, confess his speed,
His strength, his wind, or on the steepy hill,
Or far extended plain; in every part
So well proportion’d, that the skill
Of Phidias himself can’t blame thy choice.
Of such compose thy pack.

The greyhound, whose picture with others illustrates this article, also was drawn from the life, as indeed were all the dog-portraits in the article. An old English writer on the dog states that the greyhound is known by his pointed nose, the acute angles of his head, the

light, and slightly pendulous ear, considerable height, length of neck, and of general form, comparative slimness, deep breast, light belly, round muscular buttocks, and long sinewy fore arms and gaskins. His fore legs, that is to say, the space between the knee and foot, are longer than his hinder, or space between the hock and foot; all of which seems as applicable now, as then. The writer adds wittily that “his colour, whether black, white or brindle, whether whole or variegated, is no otherwise of consequence, than as fashion dictates; and if the never-ceasing game of chance should produce a blue grey dog, blue would immediately become the best colour, and so remain until a new crack should start up a different hue, when blue would instantly retire into the ranks, and those of the last shade undoubtedly advance, and become the best greyhound on the face of the earth, and produce more money at Tattersall’s.”

The Italian greyhound was probably first brought over to England in the reign of Charles I., whose attachment to this species of the dog is well known. These dogs were considered worth their weight in gold, as is attested by the familiar story which follows:

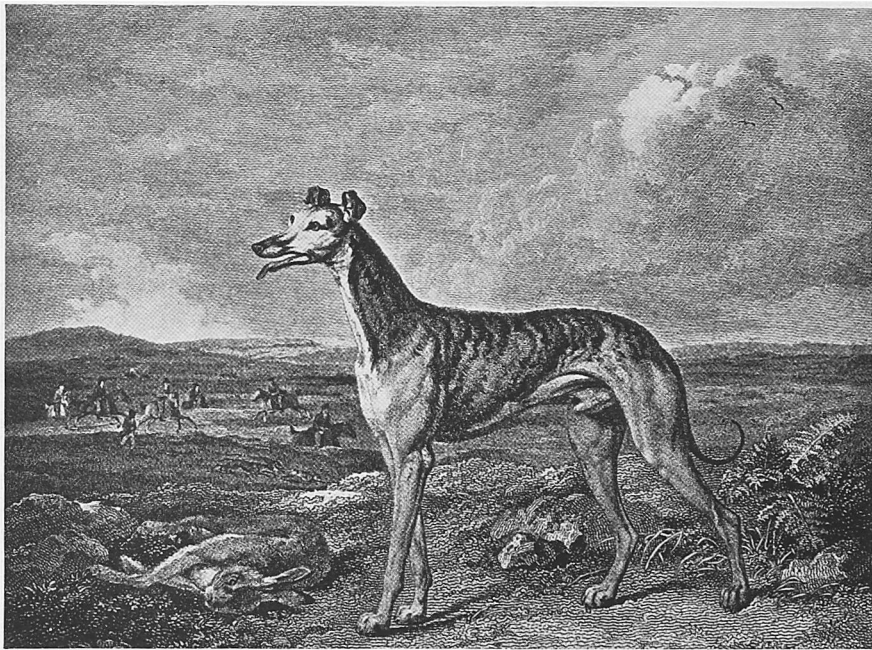
The Duchess of Portsmouth, one of the mistresses of Charles II., driving one evening unattended, to a residence which she possessed at a small distance from London, was stopped by Duval, the highwayman, who demanded her



Stag Hound

money. Her grace affected great state, and talked highly, as she before had done on a similar occasion, when she was robbed and treated with great insolence by Jacob Halsey, perhaps the only Quaker who ever took to the road. To Duval she insisted she had no money whatever, nor any valuables about her, in which she might not improbably be correct, Charles' mistresses often par-

ever, took the bitch under his arm and rode off at full speed. The day following, notice was sent to the Duchess, that for one hundred pieces, and under certain conditions, which had regard to the safety of the person concerned, the greyhound should be restored; which treaty was faithfully executed on both sides, to the infinite joy of the lady and her royal paramour.



Greyhound

taking of his poverty, as well as of his occasional wealth—

“A merry monarch, scandalous and poor.”

The highwayman, perhaps judging further parley dangerous or futile, was turning to decamp, when he espied a beautiful and most delicate Italian greyhound bitch, sitting upon the box with the coachman. This he demanded as his prize, presenting his pistol to the coachman, who declared he should lose his place and be ruined if he parted with it, being the favourite not only of his mistress but of the king. Duval, how-

Referring to the superb portrait of an Irish greyhound, which appears here, a sporting writer affirms that “from the few individuals which we have seen of this species at different periods, and from many more of the crosses between the Irish and English greyhound, we are inclined to think the specimen here offered to the public eye (*i. e.* the portrait), is a true representation of the original greyhound of Ireland, meaning thereby, nearly such, in point of form and classification, as it was many ages since, imported from some of the Eastern countries border-

ing on the Mediterranean." This hound is of the rough kind, a bolder and thicker form than the English greyhound, having less speed, but it may be presumed, more fierceness and greediness of blood. He is, however, a genuine Gaze-Hound, long, sharp-headed, light in the ear, and in the belly, with the tail curled, deep girth and breast, and hunting entirely by the eye. As has been already

a strong instinct or pre-disposition to keeping, or watching and preserving anything that comes under its observance, and joined with it patience, mildness, and gentleness of disposition. Their sagacity, docility, and powerful attachment to home and to their master and protector, aided by their current natural propensity, render the teaching them their duty an easy and pleasant



Shepherd Dog

observed, there seems little doubt but this was the kind of greyhound employed in the ancient wolf hunts of England and Ireland. One can almost see the descent from this magnificent brute of the airedale.

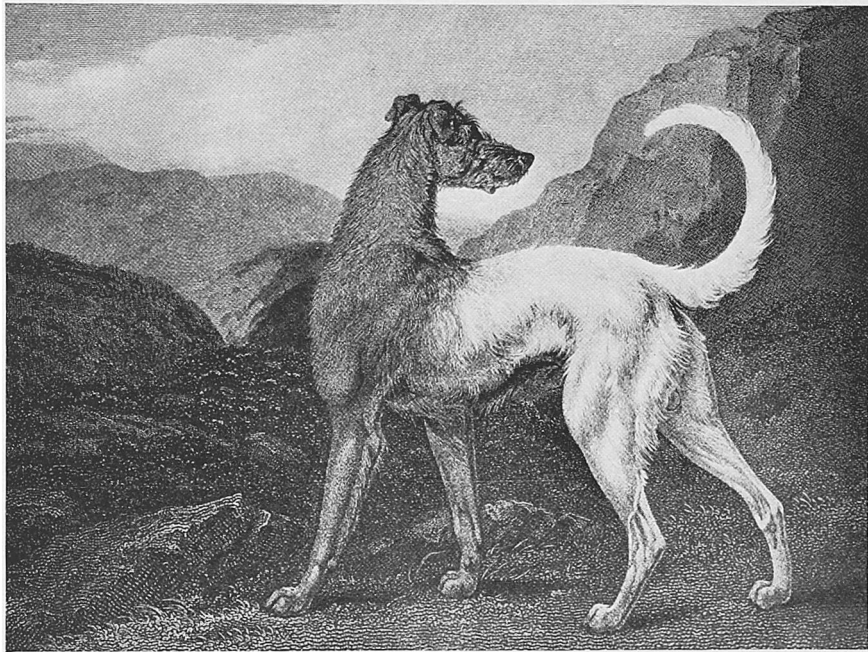
If credit can be given to the passages which seem to have passed current through a number of books, the shepherd dog, like certain ministers of state and generals, is a heaven born genius, coming into this world fully qualified by nature for his defense, and requiring no training whatever, like other animals. The truth is that this race has

task. The young sheep dog in truth, will generally be instructed by its elders, with very little extra instruction from the shepherd.

The shepherd dog is said to have been preserved in its original purity of species, in the Highlands of Scotland, and in the most uncultivated parts of Wales. In fact, such is more likely to be the case, in all open countries, where the sheep husbandry necessarily predominates, and where this dog is of the greatest account, his services being indispensable, and the trust reposed in him so great. He is truly a wonder

of his species; with all the appearance of somnolency, of heaviness and indolence, yet is all alive and active and energetic when inspired by a sense of duty, or directed by the commands of his master, the slightest indications of which are sufficient for his ready comprehension. He is the most contented of all the canine race, the least given to wandering, or attention to

since adapted in Europe. In some of the maritime districts it is still preserved in a state of purity, but the breed is more generally intermixed with the water spaniel and the Newfoundland dog. The size of this variety is between the spaniel and the pointer. The original and prevalent colour upon the Continent is black, with crisped and curly hair, black nose, white face, long black



Irish Greyhound

strange pursuits or to strangers, his whole faculties appearing completely absorbed in that employment to which he is destined. Without the external sense of robustness, he is able to endure the greatest hardships, defying hunger, wet and cold, and the shivering blasts of winter, in the wilderness, upon the mountain, and in its dreary wilds, where if the shepherd ventures, he treads with cautious and perilous steps.

The picture of the water dog presents the truest possible representation of the original water dog of Europe, long

ears, the head or ears covered with black curly hair, the front and lower parts of the legs, white. It is a dog of considerable strength and courage, indicating some cross in his composition alien to the spaniel. Without the softness of the spaniel, this breed, however, retains a great share of his native and peculiar properties, having equal sagacity of nose, superior activity and power, and aptitude to learn those manœuvres and tricks which render the dog either useful or amusing to man. Many of the learned dogs are of this race, and the mode in which



Newfoundland Dog

they receive their knowledge seems inscrutable, unless on the supposition that they have a general understanding of the language in which they are taught, and even such understanding granted, the facts are almost miraculous. Doubtless the olfactory nerves are powerful allies to the brain of these animals, which the following example seems to evince.

money about him was gone, scented him thither and being admitted, went instantly up to and jumped upon him, in spite of all exertions to prevent him, but without offering any injury, and having by dint of perseverance, obtained the coin, he returned and met his master on the way, to whom he rendered it up, with as much apparent joy and exultation, as though he



Water Spaniel

A Frenchman, proprietor of one of these dogs, took from his pocket a small coin, and warned the dog to take notice. In about twenty minutes, the coin was given to another man in the same room, but not within view of the dog. This man departed with the coin in his pocket and walked about three miles to the house of a friend where much company was assembled. In about an hour thereafter, the owner of the dog ordered him to go seek the money. The dog, although a total stranger to both the road and the house, whither the man having the

had thereby secured the greatest benefit to himself.

The Newfoundland dog is of the largest Arctic breed, that is to say, of that of the Northern frozen climes. In the head, countenance, and pendulous ears, it resembles both the hound and the spaniel, and in his nature, partakes of the qualities of both. He has the long shaggy hair and web foot of the water dog, and may indeed be almost pronounced amphibious, no other of the canine race being able to endure the water so long, or swim with so great a facility and power. His

tail is curled or fringed, and his fore legs and hinder thighs are fringed.

Here is an enthusiastic tribute to the Newfoundland dog:

No risk is incurred in pronouncing this dog the most useful of the whole canine race, so far as hitherto known, upon the face of the earth. His powers, both of body and of intellect are unequalled and he seems to have been credited with an unconquerable disposition to make the most benevolent use of those powers. His services are voluntary, ardent, incessant, and his judgment in obedience to man natural and without bounds. The benignity of his countenance is a true evidence of his disposition, and nature has been so partial to this paragon of dogs, that while he seems to be free from their usual enmities and quarrelsomeness, he is endowed with a most heroic degree of courage, whether to resent insult or to defend to his last gasp, his master or companion within danger.

A story is told of a young Newfoundland dog named Crop, who was in colour black and white, and his hair nine inches in length; with a beautiful commanding figure, attractive and interesting to all spectators. The narrative proves that he was distinguished by those peculiar and noble characteristics peculiar to this species, and the union of which in the same individual animal seems almost incompatible—the highest degree of courage on necessary occasions, and again the most unusual and playful good-nature and inoffensiveness; and joined to these

qualifications, an incessant disposition to volunteer his services, wherever his extraordinary sagacity pointed that out as necessary or useful. A remarkable instance of this in Crop was his noticing the habit in his master, to be accommodated with boot-jack, slippers and morning gown, on returning home in the evening.

On a certain evening, when his master was waiting for these to be brought to him by his valet, a lumbering noise was heard upon the stairs, when suddenly to the astonishment of master and family, Crop entered the room with the gown, which having laid at his master's feet, he set off again, and returned with the boot-jack and slippers, depositing them also, and expressing in his countenance and motions, the satisfaction he enjoyed at having rendered a service. He ever after performed the office of valet de chambre, not only to his master, but if a visitor happened to arrive late in the evening, he always brought to him the boot-jack and slippers too. Crop, as well as a caressing, was a kissing animal, and would kiss any person that desired him, and his natural instinct approximated so nearly to human reason, and his affection for the human race was so great, that the opinion given by a certain literary lady, of a dog of the same species seems equally applicable to Crop:- He can be no other than some benignant human being transformed into a dog by one of those enchanters celebrated in the "Arabian Nights."